DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 12-22-82
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Zone II and IV Commissioners are installed in Nha Trang and Can Tho, respectively.

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A-2 — LIMITED OFFICIAL USE — PRIORITY

NO. — HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : BANGKOK, CINCPAC FOR POLAD, DANANG, PARIS FOR VN MISSION (2), VIENTIANE

Action assigned to

Action Taken NOTED

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON DATE: January 1, 1970

SUBJECT : Upper House Draws Lots to Determine Which Senators Serve Three-Year Terms

REF : Saigon A-563, November 25, 1969

Date of Action 1/12/69

EA Action Office Symbol

Name of Officer

1. The Upper House of the National Assembly met December 30 and drew lots to determine which Senators in the first Upper House will serve only three-year terms as specified in Article 33 of the Constitution. Twenty-nine Senators drew three-year terms, it having been decided that the term of Senator Tran Dien, who was killed during the 1968 Tet Offensive, will be regarded as a three-year term. Included in the unlucky 29 who drew short terms and thus will have to seek re-election in the Senatorial elections to be held in late summer of this year if they wish to continue in the Upper House are oppositionists Tran Van Don and Ton That Dinh, Northern Catholic Greater Solidarity Force leader Nguyen Gia Hien, and Upper House Chairman and First Vice Chairman, Nguyen Van Huyen and Mrs. Nguyen Phuoc Dai, respectively. If Don chooses to seek re-election, which seems likely, his candidacy will provide another platform for his oppositionist campaign.

2. The Upper House's military members faired poorly in the lottery, with all four retired generals drawing short terms (Nguyen Van Chuan and Huynh Van Cao, in addition to Don and Dinh). Six committee chairmen, one-half of the total, must seek re-election: Truong Tien Dat (Culture & Education); Tran Van Don (Defense); Bui Van Giai (Interior); Tran Ngoc Nhuan (Internal Rules and Affairs); Pham Nam Sach (Judiciary); and Pham Van Trien (Health). Nhuan incidentally emphasized the

Enclosure: att ep

List of Senators drawing three-year terms.

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Drafted by: POL:TATull:ab 12/31/69

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